(vi) Decision was taken to release 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under OMSS in February and March 2007 to cool the market prices before the start of RMS 2007-08.

(vii) The Government is keeping very close watch on domestic and international prices of wheat.

(viii) A notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007" has been issued under the Easential Commodities Act 1955 on 1.3.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 50.000 tonnes during 2007-08 shall furnish to the Central Government a return indicating the name/ address of the company, quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat held in stock.

(ix) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2007 notification under the EC Act enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat and pulses.

(x) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted upto 31.12.2007.

(xi) 13128 centers for wheat procurement have been opened by Government agencies in RMS 2007-08 as compared to 8985 centers in RMS 2006-07.

(xii) Senior Officers of Department of Food and Public Distribution and FCI are frequently visiting wheat procuring States to personally assess the situation.

Utilization of foodgrains by BPL families

†4030. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) wheather the consumption of foodgrains by the people living below poverty line is less in comparision to its availability;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the extent of per capita consumption of foodgrains by the people living below poverty line and the people living above the poverty line in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by government to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The details of the monthly per capita consumption of foodgrains (constituting cereals and pulses) by the people living below poverty line (BPL) in 2004-05, derived from NSS 61st Round consumer expenditure data, Report No. 508(61/1.0/1) and the Domestic Production and Projected Consumption Requirement of foodgrains (as per the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) in the correspomding period, are as per the tables below:

(i)

Year — Foodgrains (Million Tonnes)

	Domestic Production	Projected Consumption Requirement	Difference
2004-05	198.36	188.38	9.98

(ii)

	Rural		Urban	
Monthly per capita Consumption	BPL	APL	BPL	APL
Quantity(kg)	11.61	13.26	10.52	10.80
Expenditure (in Rs.)	96.07	127.98	103.23	139.21

The Central Government makes an allocation of foodgrains under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), @ 35 kg per family per month, on the basis of number of ration cards issued by the States/UTs or the number of house holds on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and the population projection of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 whichever is less. The total BPL households as per this formula are estimated to be 6.52 crore families, who are supplied

foodgrains at a lower Central Issue Price *vis-a-vis* APL households, as indicated below:

Central issue Price (CIP)

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	APL	BPL
Wheat	610	415
Rice	830	565

Details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS during last five years are as follows.

Allocation and offtake for APL, BPL and AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana)

(In Lac Tonnes)

Year	BPL		APL		AAY	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
2002-03	227.711	137.237	474.300	28.037	47.275	35.387
2003-04	225.703	158.039	441.268	39.618	45.559	41.652
2004-05	212.723	174.518	443.679	64.319	60.598	54.713
2005-06	193.010	156.425	443.533	80.205	80.672	74.423
2006-07	180.165	142.334	302.817	84.492	93.611	86.971

The data on allocation and oftake reveal that offtake has been lower than allocation. However, in spite of the allocation being made at highly subsidized rates, several factors contribute to poor lifting by the State Governments. Few of these are availability of foodgrains in FCI godowns, resources position of State Governments, availability of railway takes for movement, administrative or infrastructural problems created by natural calamities and low price differential between issue prices and the marked prices, etc.

The Central Government, from time to time, issues directions to the States/UT to ensure that the allocated foodgrains are properly distributed amongst the targetted population.